

DISCOVERY

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Rumsfeld reminds personnel about operational security

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — When Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld started talking about the need to safeguard classified information, the studio staff flashed a World War II poster on the television.

It was a picture of a young girl holding a picture of her father. The legend on it was, "Don't kill her Daddy with Careless Talk."

At every entrance to the Pentagon, there are similar posters. On the concourse of the building is the famous "Loose Lips may Sink Ships" poster. At another is a sailor drowning in stormy seas. Behind him is a burning torpedoed ship. The legend is simply, "Somebody Talked."

In his first press conference for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Rumsfeld stressed the importance of operational security.

"It's essential that everyone with access to classified operational details exercise discipline," he said. "There is no excuse for anyone revealing sensitive information that will almost certainly put the lives of men and women in uniform at risk."

DoD officials said there have been a number of leaks to the media that

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USAFSAM airman makes "Tops in Blue"

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Eagles youth win hoop tournaments

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Courtesy photo

A somber moment

Army Chaplain (Col.) Richard Rogers leads a prayer March 25 for six airmen killed when their HH-60G Pave Hawk crashed near Ghazni, Afghanistan, March 23. The helicopter

crew was on its way to pick up two Afghan children for treatment in U.S. medical facilities at Bagram Air Base. The remains were being flown to Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Smallpox vaccine program extends to 'emergency essential' civilians

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Civilian employees deployed to fill emergency-essential positions at selected overseas locations are now required to receive the smallpox vaccine, Pentagon officials said.

According to Col. Rainer Stachowitz, deputy director of the nuclear and counter proliferation directorate at the Pentagon, theater commanders will determine which civilian positions fall into the emergency-essential category.

"There are a lot of people in theater now who are not, or at least a week or two ago were not, coded as emergency essential," Stachowitz said. "If a commander says 'I really need this person here,' they have the authority to make the change."

"In today's military environment, civilian employees are a critical component of our force structure. We absolutely have to have them to accomplish our missions," Stachowitz said.

"If we want them to support us, we need to provide them the same level of protection we're providing to our military folks. Therefore, they're included in the vaccination program," he said.

Although a commander may determine if a civilian position is emer-

gency essential, it is up to the individual employee whether or not to accept the role — and the accompanying vaccinations.

"These people have to be given the option of accepting the assignment as an emergency-essential civilian," Stachowitz said. "If they accept it, they have to take the anthrax shots and the smallpox vaccination. If they decide they don't want to do it, they have to be moved out at the first opportunity."

In the future, civilian employees deploying to fill emergency-essential positions will be vaccinated before departure.

The role of civilian employees in America's military force structure has grown substantially since 1991's Operation Desert Storm, Stachowitz said.

"There's a tremendous amount of work that used to be done by military personnel that is now done by civilian employees and contractors," he said. "They're critical to the overall combat capability of the U.S. military."

Contractors providing mission-essential services at certain overseas locations are also required to receive the smallpox vaccine.

According to Lt. Col. Kelly Woodward, chief of preventive medicine at the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, the logistics involved in vaccinating emergency-essential civilians is not com-

plicated.

"We follow the same procedure for pre-screening and educating, and then vaccinating and caring for individuals regardless of whether they're civilian or military," he said.

"We have very high standards for screening people to make sure we vaccinate only people for whom it's appropriate to vaccinate."

Woodward said patient education is key to the vaccination program's success.

"We give very explicit instructions on what kind of care one should take after vaccination, as well as what kinds of things to expect after vaccination," he said. "We have methods in place to ensure that everyone can get the care they need if they have questions about the vaccine or about possible side effects."

According to Stachowitz, there have been only 10 cases of serious adverse reaction — none severe — since the smallpox vaccination program began in January.

"There have been no long-term issues with any of these vaccinations," he said. "None of the adverse reactions lasted longer than a couple of days, and every one of these folks is now 100 percent — no long-lasting side effects." Local civilian personnel offices have more information.



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Discovery Editorial Staff:

311th Human Systems Wing Commander

Col. Tom Travis

Director of Public Affairs

Larry Farlow

Editor

Cerise Shapiro

(cerise.shapiro@brooks.af.mil)

Assistant Editor

Dale Eckroth

Public Affairs NCOIC

Staff Sgt. John Jung

Staff Writer

Rita Boland

Photography

Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

Airman First Class Samantha Shieh

Discovery logo by Arlene Schirmer



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Individuals key to AFMC's transformation success

By Gen. Lester Lyles

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command



WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Recently, I discussed with you my expectations for Air Force Materiel Command transformation: to develop an expeditionary mindset; become more innovative, adaptive and responsive; operate more effectively and efficiently; and be easier to do business with.

These expectations enable the command's vision to provide military capabilities through superior acquisition and sustainment for Defense Department warfighters and their allies - now and in the future.

We now have more than 200 initiatives across the command to meet these expectations, and I could not be more proud of your efforts to improve our support to the warfighter!

Major efforts such as Depot Maintenance Reengineering Transformation, the Spares Campaign, Predictive Support Awareness, Agile Acquisition, Test and Evaluation Transformation, the Air Force Research Laboratory's capability integration efforts and our scientist and engineer recruiting and retention initiatives, to name a few, are leading our journey.

Divestiture of nonessential efforts has proven to be a great way to reinvest resources to provide direct payback to the warfighter. Since August, almost 300 divestiture candidates have been submitted, resulting in eliminating, improving or resolving misunderstandings for each candidate. The secretary of the Air Force and the chief of staff are our champions for these divestiture efforts, which have eliminated almost 60,000 hours of nonessential work to date.

As these initiatives continue, we are working with the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition Dr. Marvin Sambur and his team to streamline our acquisition processes. Until recently, we focused on individual weapon system programs through the Integrated Weapons System Management philosophy.

This approach proved to be very successful as a fundamental strategy to improve specific, or vertical, program life cycle management and accountability, but the increasing demands for interoperability and commonality demand a new way of doing business.

In order to meet those demands and promote horizontal integration, we developed the product enterprise concept. This approach provides integrated solutions by shifting our focus away from platform-centric thinking and toward capabilities- and ef-

fects-based thinking. To focus attention on these enterprises, our product center commanders were assigned as enterprise leaders for each product enterprise established: command and control, aeronautics, armament, and space and ballistic missiles.

This approach provided an ideal foundation for Capabilities-Based Life Cycle Management - a new direction for AFMC and SAF/AQ that will provide a set of fully supportable, integrated solutions capable of meeting the needs and effects required by the warfighter.

Our first step in this new direction is the Agile Acquisition Concept of Operations I recently signed with Dr. Sambur which formalizes our partnership with SAF/AQ. It clearly delineates SAF/AQ's role as the lead for acquisition policy and processes and AFMC's vital role as the supporting organization providing people, re-

sources, tools and expertise.

We are now working together with Dr. Sambur and his team to reengineer processes and implement this concept of operations in the most effective and efficient manner. Our joint goal remains unchanged: to meet the warfighter's needs!

This concept of operations and our other transformation initiatives are enabling us to continue providing world-class support in an ever-changing environment. Transformation in AFMC is not just a matter of doing things better, faster or cheaper. It is the evolution of our command to grow with the Air Force and take the necessary steps to ensure we continue to meet our warfighters' needs.

I am very excited about our future! We are well on our way in this transformation journey and there are a multitude of opportunities to progress even farther. We will meet future demands by reengineering our processes and continuing to fulfill our responsibilities to train, organize and equip an outstanding team of research and development, acquisition, sustainment, and test and evaluation professionals.

Our mission is complicated, yet no one in the world does it better! I hear this often from leaders across the Air Force and the warfighting commands.

We have been in operation for more than 50 years in one form or another, with processes growing to meet changing Air Force requirements. Your part in this journey is key to our success as we continue to reengineer our processes and transform AFMC to enhance our support to the warfighter.

To the men and women of Air Force Materiel Command:

By Gen. Lester Lyles

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

Our Commander-in-Chief has launched the massive, superior capability of the American military machine, and we now are showing the world our resolve. As our forces and those of our coalition partners pour into Iraq and establish a foothold for freedom, we in Air Force Materiel Command are a major force in the battle.

When news flows back from the front lines, remember it is your hard work in the centers and research directorates that makes it possible.

Take pride in the systems, technologies, and logistic sustainment that your dedicated efforts have produced.

Every airman, civilian employee and contractor in our organizations has done a superb job of providing our nation with the capability to achieve our primary objective of protecting our freedoms.

All of us in AFMC, whether deployed around the world or serving in the U.S., have an active role in prosecuting this war through world-class support to the warfighters. We all are in this together, and I cannot think of a group of men and women I would rather be shoulder-to-shoulder with at this moment than you.

You all have done an impressive job getting our nation ready, and I could not be more proud of you. We will be even busier in the days ahead, and your continued efforts are vital. I know you are up to the task.

God bless our great nation — and each of you and your loved ones.

General Lyles
AFMC Commander



DQS offers electronic deployment information

By 2nd Lt. Shawn Fry
AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — A Web-based, user friendly software program Air Force materiel Command experts here are testing promises warfighters instant access to deployment information and saves the Air Force nearly \$79 million during a five-year period.

The Deployment Qualification System works through the Air Force portal and gives access to current status on prerequisites like self aid and buddy care, level one anti-terrorism and chemical warfare training along with weapons qualifications and personnel health assessment dates, according to Maj. Jeff Stephan, DQS program manager.

The new program also allows warfighters to be proactive in preparing to deploy while automated administrative steps in the process saves manhours.

"The system was developed as a way to empower people to get ready for deployment on their own," Stephan said, noting the self-service Web site can be accessed from a workplace computer.

"The Aerospace Expeditionary Force is our culture and deploying trained and ready airmen on time is the most important thing we do," said Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander. "And yet, individuals currently have no way to check or take actions to improve their individual deployment readiness without having to burden their unit deployment manager. This tool gives individuals that opportunity."

Col. William Saunders, AFMC's e-Business chief, said the system came about as a result of a business case analysis the AFMC chief information officer sponsored in February 2002, comparing deployment costs to benefits. The analysis concluded that the current deployment process had three major shortfalls - it's labor intensive, lacks consistency and lacks proactive features such as notification of expiring qualification.

The old multi-step process required AFMC deployment managers to organize an airman's equipment and hospital records, schedule training and maintain personnel and other documents before the individual was considered deployable, a cumbersome process at best, Saunders said.

"Many reported they used paper, spreadsheets and

locally developed databases that differ from unit to unit within AFMC," he said.

On top of that, deployment managers resorted to using personal computer-based tools to assist them, which has created duplicated databases unable to interact with each other, Stephan said.

"This fragmented data makes the task challenging and leaves service providers unable to accurately predict demand in training and immunizations for upcoming Aerospace Expeditionary Force windows," he said.

The DQS comes along just in time to help people accomplish Gen. John Jumper's request for commanders to review their command's deployment readiness regularly. Jumper is the Air Force chief of staff.

The benefits of switching to DQS will allow deployment managers to focus on their primary areas of responsibility," said Tech. Sgt. Patricia Gilmore of Aerospace Systems Center contracting.

Since deployment manager is not a career field, the role is filled as an additional duty, with larger units dedicating one or two people full time to handle deployment responsibilities.

"The DQS allows deployment managers to immediately track individuals, no shows, training completion notices and any changes in training," she said.

According to Stephan, the system also gives training providers a tool that can facilitate event scheduling, up-to-the-minute training rosters, an automated method to certify course completion, publishing training materials and compare planned training versus forecasted demand.

"This system will put more hours back in mission accomplishment and less in tracking," Gilmore said. "The system will be faster than people can do paper work."

"We don't have to reinvent the wheel," she said. "This isn't rocket science; after all, this isn't even a concept that is new. We are taking a commercial process and making it fit the needs of the Air Force."

System testing will be completed this month with end user training performed at Wright-Patterson and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., said 2nd Lt. James Yeates, DQS program test director.

"Users are asked to provide feedback to help shape the next configuration of the tool," he said.

The new system will be available for warfighter use to prepare for summer 2003 deployments.

Troop mail policy stressed

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE — To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to servicemembers forward deployed unless they are a family member, loved one or personal friend.

October 30, 2002, the Defense Department suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs due to force protection concerns. Although the programs provide an excellent means of support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources.

Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for airlift space used to transport supplies, materials and mail from family and loved ones.

Recently, DoD has become aware of organizations and individuals who continue to support some form of the "Any Servicemember" program by using the names and addresses of individual servicemembers and unit addresses. Some publicize the names and addresses of service members, ships or units on Web sites, with good intentions. The result, however, is a potential danger to the troops they wish to support.

As an alternative to mail and donation programs, the DoD recommends a number of Web sites where citizens can view virtual greetings cards, sign thank you cards or make calling card donations to help troops stay in contact with loved ones.

Log on to the following Web sites to show support: www.defendamerica.mil; www.usocares.org/home; www.army.mil/operations/iraq.

To show support to troops overseas, citizens can also visit Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes or volunteer to honor veterans who served in past conflicts.

Mail from family members and loved ones has always been encouraged and the military mail system continues to work hard to get that mail to servicemembers overseas.



Brooks airmen reap annual ASC awards

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Brooks airmen triumphed at the recent Aeronautical Systems Center 2002 awards, taking home awards in four categories.

"This year's ASC Annual Awards Ceremony provided me with one of my proudest moments in the military... They are the best of the best and I am so proud of the work they have accomplished."

1st Lt. Joann Kenneally, the Aeromedical Systems Program Manager at the 311th Human Systems Program Office won the award from Company Grade Officer of the Year. Her accomplishments include winning the Air Force Achievement Medal for warfighter support, serving as program manager for the Collectively Protected Expeditionary Medical Support, serving as program manager for the Remote Casualty Location/Assessment Device and filling in as the executive officer at YA during a manpower shortage. She also completed 13 courses during the year, while serving as CGO Council president. Her volunteer activities include serving dinner at the St. Vincent De Paul Homeless Shelter, serving dinner at Fisher House and visiting Audie Murphy Veteran's Hospital.

"I was extremely pleased when Brooks took three out of the five ASC awards, I think it says a lot about the people who work here," Kenneally said. "I feel incredibly fortunate and honored to have won such an award. There were many people at Brooks who taught me how to do my job better; however, I owe this success to my boss-Maj. Brian Collins."

Master Sgt. Jerry Gibson of the 311th Communications Squadron

“ This year's ASC Annual Awards Ceremony provided me with one of my proudest moments in the military... They are the best of the best and I am so proud of the work they have accomplished. ”

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hollins
Command chief

took home the award for Senior NCO. In a 12-month time span he improved communications on Brooks in a variety of ways including identifying and fixing the antiquated 911 emergency notification system, directing the consolidation project for the 311th Security Forces Squadron and the Wing Command Post, managing the completion of 575 telecommunications work requests and closing 458 trouble tickets and increasing the security for the entire Brooks telecommunications infrastructure. During the same time period he won Senior NCO awards in the fourth quarter of 2002 for the communications squadron, the 311th Mission Support Group and the wing. The 311th HSW also selected him as the Outstanding Performer during the ASC Unit Compliance Inspection. Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center selected him to attend the in-residence SNCO academy, a program reserved for the top 10 percent of master sergeants in the Air Force. AFMC selected him twice as a subject matter expert. In his volunteer efforts, he organized the cell phone solution for Airman Against Drunk Driving, fed the homeless at St. Vincent De Paul and worked at Aerospace Career Day, Top-Three functions and Brooks Retiree Appreciation Day.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to represent Brooks," Gibson said. "I would like to thank everyone for the awesome support."

Staff Sgt. Sally Perez of the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis won the award for Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. During 2002, Perez provided input on nuclear, biological, chemical facets and assisted in a Air Force Surgeon General UTC review. She also developed the first Air Force Chemical Agents Field Risk Assessment guidance document, developed field technical guidance for identification, response and control of biological warfare agents and helped create the first anthrax air detection kit. Perez attends college at Wayland Baptist University. She also attended the Lackland NCO academy and the Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene Review Course at Harvard Medical School. Perez also served as a volunteer mentor to a third grade student, volunteered for youth football, and helped with base events like the Air Force Ball and AFIERA Golf Tournament.

Master Sgt. Georgia Royster won the award for Career Assistance Advisor. Since taking the position she began briefing newcomers, developed the First Term Airman's Center and created the NCO, SNCO and CGO Centers for Professional Development. The Coast Guard inducted Royster as an honorary Chief Petty Officer after she graduated from the Chief Petty Officer Academy. She also completed several other courses and received various certifications. She kept active in volunteer activities on and off base, working at promotion ceremonies, the Air Force Anniversary Ball and the wing holiday celebration. She gave a speech about the military experience of women to the Women's Federation of Workers Association and also represented Brooks Top 3 at the Elf Louise Project. Royster belongs to the Air Force Sergeants Association, Top 3, Institute of Industrial Engineers Association, Oklahoma University Alumni Association and the San Antonio Human Resources Management Association.

All four winners now compete at the Air Force Material Command level.

Promotions

The following Brooks personnel have been selected for promotion to Senior Master Sergeant.

Veronica Berry Jones

68th Information Operations Squadron

Christopher Rose

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

Timothy Davis

NMI

Keith Geltz

311th Human Systems Program Office

Ernesto Lozares

YA

Jerry Gibson

311th Communications Squadron

Thomas Monroe

Air Force Medical Support Agency

Mary Scott

AFMSA

Henry Stephenson

AFMSA

Security

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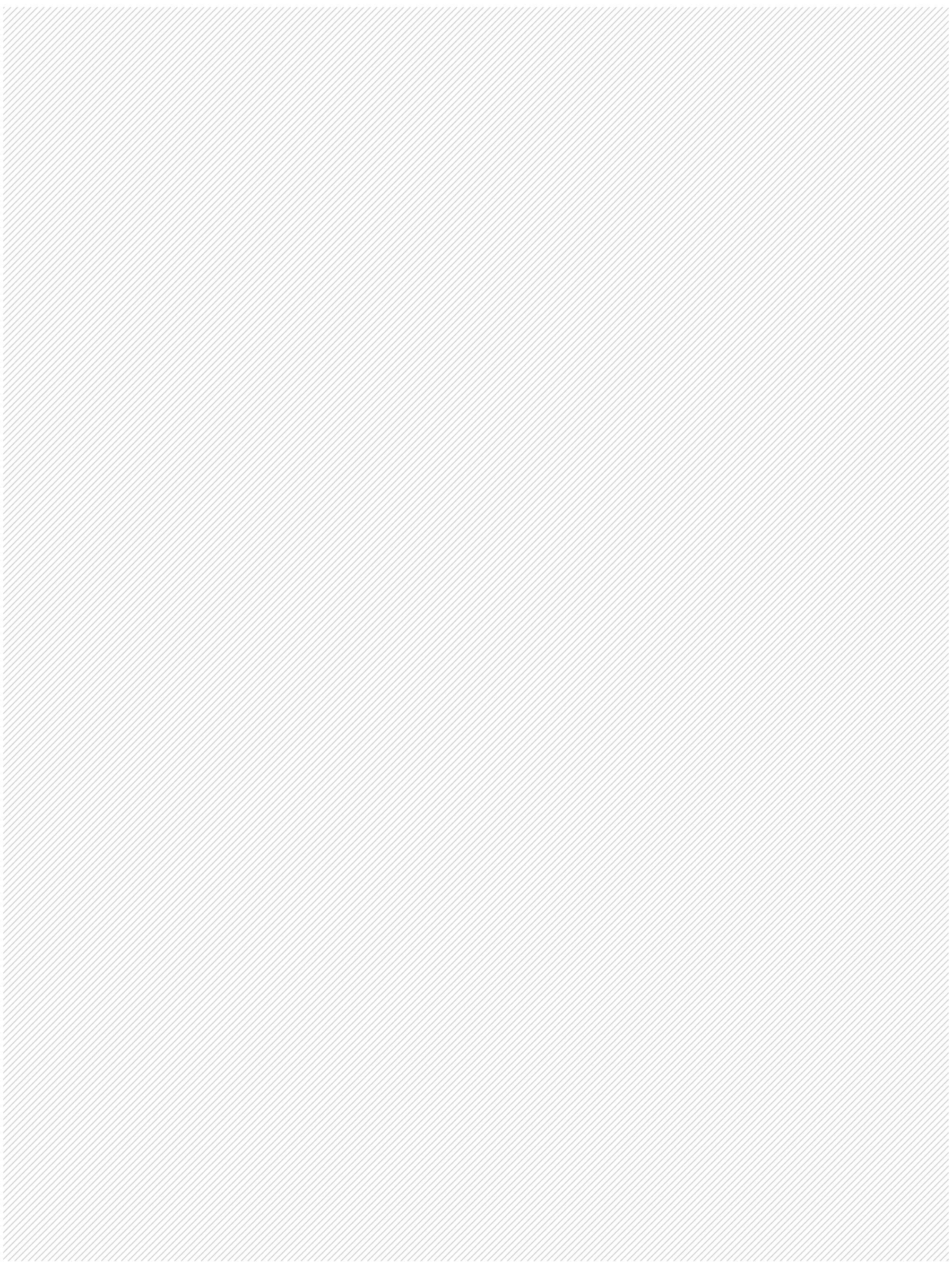
“ It's essential that everyone with access to classified operational details exercise discipline. ”

Donald Rumsfeld

U.S. Secretary of Defense

may have endangered American lives. The secretary firmly believes that those with access to classified information have a moral obligation to protect it.

"At a time when coalition forces are poised for battle, any compromise of classified information that gives the enemy knowledge of the positions of our forces or the plans or the timing of future operations can result in the death of coalition service men and women," he said. "Don't do it."





Brooks lodging bucks for Gold Key Award

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

The lobby greets a guest with a relaxing atmosphere complemented with muted colors and comfortable furniture. The TV hums softly between two low couches and a rack of paperback books and a selection of magazines give guests an array of leisure time activities to choose from. Behind the front desk, a refrigerator keeps beverages cold and a collection of shelves hold delectable snacks. The key to the entire ambiance, however, is not the surroundings, but the efficient and cheerful, helpful staff.

It's not the Hilton. It's not the Marriott. It's the Brooks lodging facility and its staff worked very hard to make it top-notch lodging.

"It used to be that everyone would beg to go downtown (and stay)," said Richard Bentley, manager of Brooks billeting. "Now it's turned around. Our standards are pretty high."

Indeed they are high. Brooks is one of the few military facilities in which every room has a private bathroom.

"The number one customer irritant was shared bathrooms," Bentley said.

When Bentley took over four years, he dedicated himself to improving every facet of lodging.

"You meet every standard, then you start exceeding standards," he said.

The improvements made Brooks competitive for the Gold Key Award, an award given to the best lodging in Air

Force Material Command. The winner of the Gold Key goes on to compete for the Air Force Innkeeper Award. Though Brooks hasn't participated in the contest in several years, they won the original Air Force Innkeeper Award in 1981, the year of the award's inception.

Brooks competes in the small base category, facing Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and Edwards AFB, Calif.

"We meet all Air Force requirements like amenities, cleanliness, customer service, room standards, etc," Bentley said.

Employees at Brooks lodging will be graded on a checklist of more than 1,300 requirements, for the 164 rooms. The Gold Key team, which evaluated Brooks March 10-11, spent two days looking over the facility and evaluating records.

"(Brooks) has been a very pleasant surprise," said Keith Stowers, deputy director of services for AFMC and a member of the Gold Key team. "I was very pleased especially with Brooks being a city-base. They're working just as hard if not harder. I was very pleased with the positive attitude of the staff."

Another team member agreed.

"There isn't a room here that we wouldn't be comfortable staying in or having a guest stay in," said Charlotte Dodson, chief of lodging with AFMC.

Participation in the Gold Key evaluation is not mandatory. Though evaluators examine every point on the 30-page checklist, customer service gets the most attention.

"The whole purpose is to look at the quality of service to the customers," Dodson said. "It's called a competition, but just the checklist leads to improve-

“ The whole purpose is to look at the quality of service to the customers. It's called a competition, but just the checklist leads to improvements. It takes a lot to go through examinations. **”**

Keith Stowers
Air Force Materiel Command Services
Deputy Director

ments. It takes a lot to go through examinations."

Dodson evaluated Brooks in earlier years and mentioned a big difference between the old lodging and the current facility.

"A lot of the credit goes to the staff, Mr. Bentley, Donna Harp (the assistant manager), and the eagerness of the staff to get things right," Dodson said.

Since all competitors perform at such a high level, Brooks rounds out the three-member team with Tech. Sgt. Rich Roberson, who helps pay close attention to the details that most guests never consider.

"The quality of the inns is so high that details make the difference between first and second," Stowers said.

Whether Brooks wins the Gold Key or not, customers respond with greater satisfaction than ever before.

"Win or lose, the winner is the customer, because they've worked so hard to improve the quality at Brooks," Stowers said.

The team has one base left to evaluate after Brooks. AFMC is scheduled to announce the award winners in mid-April.

Extraordinary Women quiz

Test your women's history IQ by correctly answering the following questions about extraordinary women in honor of Women's History Month. Participants must submit their answers to: angelika.fleming@brooks.af.mil by April 2. The first 10 people to answer each question correctly, based on date and time received, wins. Prizes consist of various gift certificates and other items.

1. Is an internationally known conductor and composer who also was a founding member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

2. Was the first woman of color in space and who is also a scientist and medical doctor.

3. Wrote Silent Spring, which became the foundation of the modern environmental movement.

4. Was interned in a Japanese relocation center in WWII and went on to pursue a lifelong campaign for social justice.

5. Was the first woman elected to both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

6. Drove the effort to build and dedicate the Women In Military Service for America Memorial.

7. Founded the First Nations Development Institute, which promotes economic self-sufficiency in U.S. indigenous peoples.

8. Founded the 3rd Wave Direct Action Corp., now the 3rd Wave Foundation, to empower young women to make social changes through activism.

9. Is a pioneering activist in the field of disability rights and a psychotherapist.

10. Won many awards in the field of sports broadcasting and journalism.

11. Became the first woman and first person of color to serve as the Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO.



ACTIONLINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS afterduty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-4100
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BXMarket.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3372
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444
for information

Marketing for a second career

March 31, 8 a.m.-noon, Bldg. 537—

The seminar is recommended for military members within one or two years of separation or retirement. Military spouses and DoD civilians are also invited. Topics include civilian job market competition, perceptions of military personnel, job search plans, resume strengthening, networking, preparing for successful interviews, salary negotiations and benefits packages. Retired Col. Dick Crampton, deputy director, Officer Placement Service, The Military Officers Association of America, will speak.

Marriage enrichment series

April 7, 14, 21, 9 -11 a.m., Chapel Annex—

Whether you're just married, have been married forever, need encouragement, in-

struction or just time with your spouse learning more about each other, this seminar may be what you need. Topics include children, communication, in-laws, dating again, barriers and essentials for a happy marriage. We are aiming to help couples grow fantastic marriages. Join us and learn more about your spouse in an open, light-hearted atmosphere.

Sponsor Training

April 8, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Bldg. 537—

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory for all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. Others are welcome to attend and learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

Consumer credit counseling

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Have you fallen deep into debt? Is it tough making payments? Are you near your credit limit and considering loans or bankruptcy? You can get out of debt with a debt management plan. Call 536-2444 to schedule an appointment with a credit counselor.

Brooks City-Base and community job fair

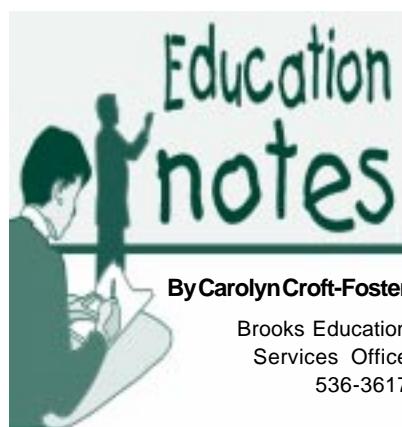
April 11, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Hangar 9—

Whether you are seeking employment now or gathering information for future career decisions, make this job fair a part of your transition/job search strategy. The community job fair is open to active duty and retired military, DoD civilian personnel, family members and the public.

Call the Family Support Center at 536-2444 for information and registration.



Wednesdays. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.



By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

Maymester On-Base

Registration is underway for the Maymester On-Base. This is a three-week semester for one class. The semester begins May 12 and ends June 1. On-Base classes include: Computer Literacy, American Government, Humanities, Introduction to Psychology and Speech. Call the Education Center for more information or to schedule an appointment with the Palo Alto representative.

Air Force virtual education center

The Virtual Education Center is on-line. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and the Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can also order CCAF transcripts from the site. To access the AFVEC go to the following Web site and establish an account at: <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>. For more information call the Brooks Education Center at 536-3617.

Webster registration

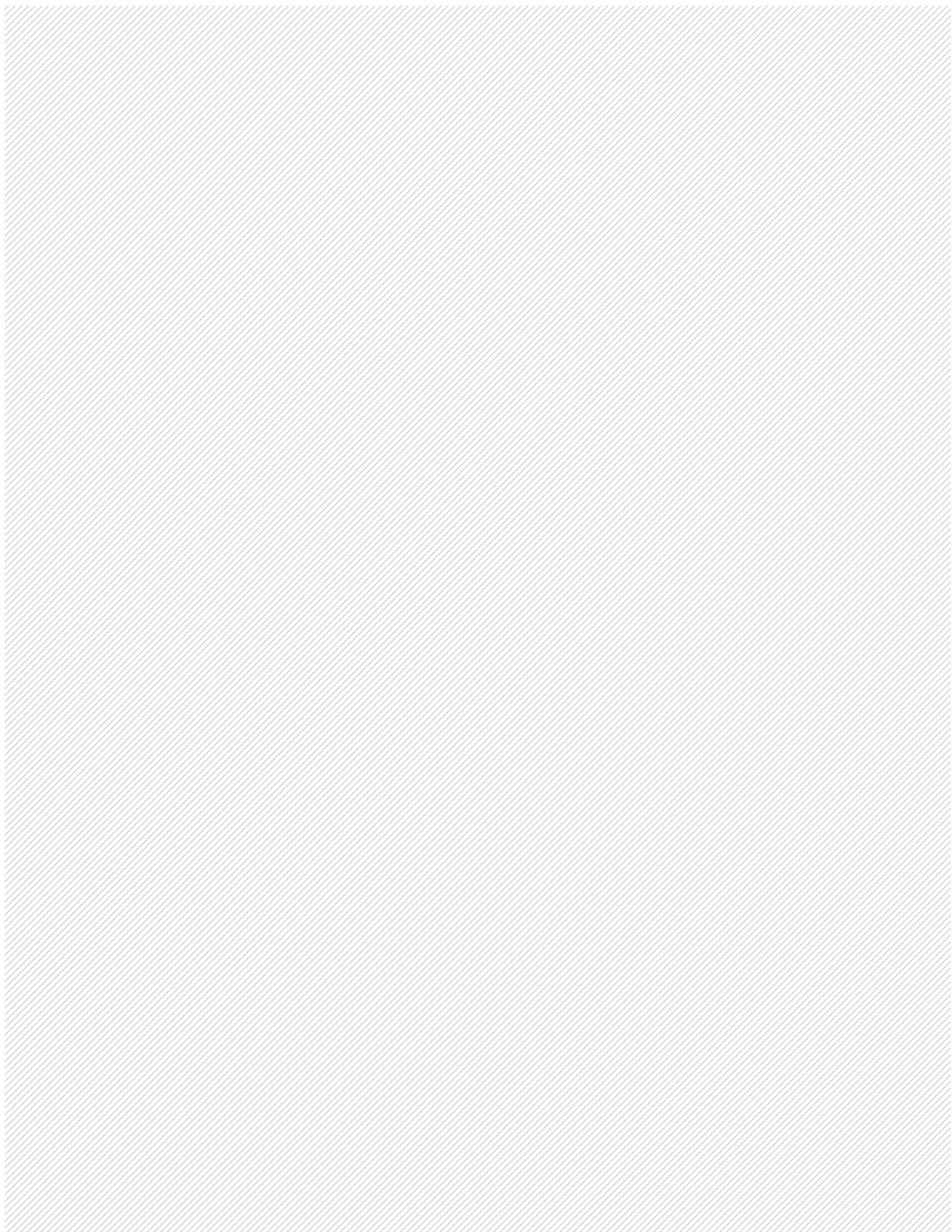
Webster University begins registration April 14 for the summer term. Classes begin May 26. Joyce Peavy, the Webster representative, visits Brooks

Six CLEP exams retired

The College Board is retiring six CLEP subject paper-based tests in June. The exams are: General Humanities, General Biology, General Chemistry, German, and Western Civilization I and II. Anyone wishing to take one of these exams must take it prior to June 30. The following exams will be retired Nov. 30: General English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. Call the Education Center for more information or to reserve a seat.

Changes for OTS/ ROTC application

All non-technical boards are suspended until October 2003. Officer training school continues to accept applications for pilot, navigator and technical career fields. All non-technical selects' class assignments are on hold until August 2003. Potential applicants who met with a guidance counselor should schedule follow-up appointments to see how the changes affect their packages. OTS is still accepting applications for Air Battle Managers and Space and Missile Systems. Call 536-3617 for details or to schedule an appointment with a counselor.





History website seeks stories, honors World War II veterans

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

While newscaster-turned-author Tom Brokaw has ridden a resurgent wave of nostalgia and patriotism with his book *The Greatest Generation*, a Brooks contractor and his neighbor are riding along the Information Superhighway searching for World War II-era passengers to join them on their interactive history Web site.

Inaugurated a year ago by Mike Traweek and Merle Choffel, the history Web site www.geocities.com/ghost_83rd has had more than 5,000 hits from people interested in reading about personal accounts from veterans and their families that retell how World War II affected their lives.

"We're really excited about what we're doing. We've had nothing but positive feedback," said Traweek, a TRUE Research Foundation research laboratory supervisor who supports the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. Traweek, the webmaster, said the site was initially established to honor World War II veterans.

"It is our hope that this site may, in time, become a fitting tribute to all veterans to whom we all owe so much. We also hope this site may help to remind those of us who were not there what the true cost of freedom is," he explained.

Traweek said he and his next door neighbor Choffel, a World War II aviator, were inspired to start the website to honor what Brokaw described in his book as *The Greatest Generation*. "We have an urgency to collect as many stories that we can from (WWII) veterans. Once they are gone, their stories and their history are gone," Traweek said.

Traweek admits being inspired, in part, by his father Fred who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II as a member of the 5th Air Force. Choffel's inspiration comes from having survived combat as a B-17 crewmember who flew the next-to-the-last Allied bombing mission over Germany before the war in Europe ended.

Choffel said the website is not limited to war stories, but features a collection of memorable, personal accounts from a generation of Americans whose daily life experiences occurred during extraordinary times.

He recounted one website story he wrote titled "How I Met My Wife." "I met my wife Betty Jane Carter while I was an aviation cadet in San Antonio," said Choffel, referring to his 1943 training at the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, forerunner of Lackland Air Force Base.

Choffel and three other cadets on a 12-hour weekday pass were cruising in a rented convertible along the east

side of Travis Park in downtown San Antonio when they spotted a young lady on her lunch break. "I actually tried to pick her up off the street. It didn't work too well," admits Choffel about his future wife who at the time of their meeting was a 17-year-old telephone company mail clerk. "I whistled at her and asked her what we can do in San Antonio," he said, noting that she responded by saying she wasn't allowed to talk to strangers, especially soldiers. "I told her we're not soldiers, we're aviation cadets!"

He and his companions eventually met her socially at her church a week later, prompting Choffel's future spouse to invite the cadets home for Sunday dinner. "We double-dated," joked Choffel, about he and his three friends who visited the Carter home. Choffel quickly became the front runner for her affections. "We dated three times and corresponded during the war for almost four years." After WWII, Choffel moved to San Antonio and married her Nov. 22, 1947. Fifty-five happily married years and six children later the Choffels continue to enjoy life together. He retired from Kelly Air Force Base in 1981 after having served 30 years in civil service.

Stories such as Choffel's are the true heart of the Web site. Traweek said the site is modeled after San Antonian and Vietnam veteran Gary Thomas's "The Veterans Hour" website which focuses on historical events associated with various wars.

"We exchanged links with him (Thomas). Merle and I have also contacted bomber and fighter (reunion) groups to exchange links. We've asked sur-



Photo by Rudy Purificato

History website founders Merle Choffel, left, a World War II combat veteran, and Brooks contractor Mike Traweek.

viving spouses to contribute stories, such as a homefront story involving a Gold Star Mother (woman who lost a son in combat)," Traweek said. Choffel has promoted the Web site in his parish newsletter at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

They hope by promoting the website in various venues, such as the Discovery, will broaden their reader base and perhaps lead to increased story contributions. Their venture has already attracted interest from local historian Dr. George Keeling.

"He tracked us down through our Web site. He contacted Merle to find World War II veterans who could provide information about the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center. He is writing a history of Wilford Hall," Traweek said.

For further information about the Web site, contact either Traweek at 408-1244 or mtrawek@saxt.rr.com or Choffel at 408-6009 or bjcmcl@stic.net.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Middle East deployment advice from former Brooks contracting officer

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

His advice to Brooks contracting personnel could not have been more timely regarding the cultural and social differences that exist in the Middle East that deployed Americans must consider in order to successfully fulfill their Department of Defense missions.

Lt. Col. John McLaren, an Air Education and Training Command Directorate of Logistics contracting officer, shared his insights and experience in Southwest Asia with 311th Human Systems Wing contracting personnel here March 7. His briefing, titled "Deployment: So, You're Going to the Middle East!" highlighted lessons learned during his year-long tour at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia that ended in June 2002.

McLaren, a former Brooks contract-

ing officer, was so successful in his mission there that he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for his contributions as 363rd Expeditionary Contract Squadron commander. He was responsible for \$54 million in contracts awarded in direct support of Operation Southern Watch in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"There is no separation of church and state there. The Islamic culture is prevalent in every aspect of life and business," McLaren said, explaining that Islam is very communal. Because of this, he said, there is a cultural hesitancy toward individual responsibility. Tribal consultation is the norm within the culture, McLaren said, therefore business decisions are made collectively.

Referring to cultural sensitivities, McLaren noted, "Don't ask an Islamic person a direct question requiring an individual decision. You have to be careful when communicating in the Islamic culture."

Every direct request, he said, is met with a faith-based response: "Insha Allah," meaning "God willing." McLaren said he learned quickly that when dealing with them on contracting decisions, patience is required. Decisions take time within this culture. "The U.S. is time-oriented. The Middle East is not," McLaren said. "They will not say 'no' or 'I can not get it done by then,'" he added, explaining that they do not want to insult the person making the request, but, nevertheless, follow their own time schedule for fulfilling requirements.

This culture also values developing personal relationships first before conducting business. American military and civilian personnel should understand that they could be invited to dinner or other social gatherings consistent with Islamic traditions. Associated with these social activities is Islamic generosity. "You may be given expensive gifts. Your obligation (as U.S. representatives) is to always operate with integrity," McLaren said, noting that taking what is perceived to be bribes is a punishable ethics violation.

McLaren referred to a recently published Air Force Times story that reported an American service member who took a \$35,000

bribe from a vendor during a \$400,000 contract negotiation to build a cold storage facility. That individual, he said, is now in custody.

He noted, "The 'perception factor' is even more important in the Islamic culture."

While gifts are part of doing business in the Middle East, Americans must, however, exercise extreme caution when accepting them.

"Take photos of the gifts and document when and where you were presented them."

Commodities are like gold in the Middle East, therefore, Americans responsible for materiel shipped there must be always wary of who they are dealing with, McLaren said.

His briefing covered many other issues ranging from living conditions to hazardous duty pay. High on his list of things Americans must consider is safety. "You are always in danger. You have to know where to go and what to do when you get into trouble."

McLaren's presentation is part of PK's on-going series of professional development programs designed to educate the contracting workforce.



April is child abuse awareness month

By Elizabeth Thompson

311th Medical Squadron

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and the Brooks Family Advocacy Program is doing their part to help educate the public.

The Brooks community is invited to attend a one-hour presentation by Valerie Tamez and Yvonne Gutierrez of The Children's Shelter of San Antonio, a non-profit agency, at the Base Chapel April 9 from 3-4 p.m.

How much do you know about the children's shelters in San Antonio?

* Founded in 1901 the shelter was the first nationally accredited children's agency in south Texas. The shelter is the oldest and largest emergency shelter for children in Texas. The shelter provides safe haven and substitute care through emergency shelter for children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected, and it specializes in care to infants and younger children, serving newborns up through the age of 12 years.

* The agency provides the only emergency shelter in Bexar County for children under the age of two. They are nationally recognized by the Council on Accreditation for Services to Families and Children. They are a United Way agency affiliated with the

Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services and the Child Welfare League of America.

* Child Protective Services refers children as most of the children are in the custody of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, known as Child Protective Services. About 53 percent of the children are referred by the San Antonio Police Department. The agency also works with private adoption agencies to find temporary homes until adoptive parents can be found.

* 731 children were cared for at their Cedar Street Shelter and the Woodlawn infant shelter during fiscal 2002.

* The agency also provides foster care and adoption services, teenage parenting services, a child development center for children of homeless families, and education on child abuse prevention in our community.

* Other children's shelters in San Antonio include the following: Baptist Children's Home, Mabee Children's Emergency Shelter, Boysville home and shelter, Bridge Emergency Shelter, Father Flanagan's Girls' and Boys' Town of San Antonio home and shelter, and St. Peter-St. Joseph Home and Emergency Shelter. All shelters accept both boys and girls, despite the name.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Thompson at 536-4711.

Commander urges AFAF participation

By Gen. Lester Lyles

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — America's service men and women are always poised to do what their country may require. Their families support those efforts despite gut-wrenching trials and obstacles in the process.

You, the men and women of Air Force Materiel Command, have proven time and again that you are ready to face and overcome any challenge that comes along. That is exactly why I am asking you to lend a hand with another challenge — helping the Air Force take care of its own.

The Air Force Assistance Fund annual fund-raising campaign started Feb. 24. This provides funds for four charities: The Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Foundation, Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. Your contribution can make sure the Air Force continues the tradition of caring for those who protect our freedom.

The first of the quartet of charities is the Air Force Aid Society, which provides airmen and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance, educational assistance and an array of base level community-enhancement programs.

The AFAS is critical to our Air Force mission because it helps active-duty members and their families when they need it most. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members on extended active-duty can also be eligible for emergency assistance when circumstances warrant. Local family support centers can provide full details on programs and eligibility.

Just last year, the AFAS helped more than 34,000 Air Force people with \$24.1 million worth of assistance. This came in the form of emergency assistance grants, low-interest loans along with education and community programs.

And what a return you can expect on your investment! In 2002, AFMC people contributed \$435,915 to the AFAS, but they received \$2,826,445 in assistance. That means our people received in assistance roughly seven times the amount given, and it all started with individuals choosing to make a differ-

ence.

But it is not just our active-duty people we need to think of during the AFAF campaign. There are also those who have retired from military service. One way to help them is by supporting the Air Force Enlisted Foundation in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., near Eglin Air Force Base.

This foundation provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people 55 and older. The foundation was formerly the Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation Inc.

The Air Force Enlisted Foundation provides surviving spouses requiring financial assistance a place to live among peers, sharing memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing.

The Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, in San Antonio, is another way to support our retired men and women. This is a life-care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members. It is a fund for widows and widowers of Air Force officers to get the help they need and deserve.

And last, but not least, the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation provides rent and financial assistance to indigent officer and enlisted widows or widowers in their own homes and communities. It offers financial help to those needing assistance wherever they are residing, for as long as necessary.

Funds are offered with no strings attached because these individuals also served with their husbands and wives during their Air Force careers and deserve to live out their lives in comfort and dignity.

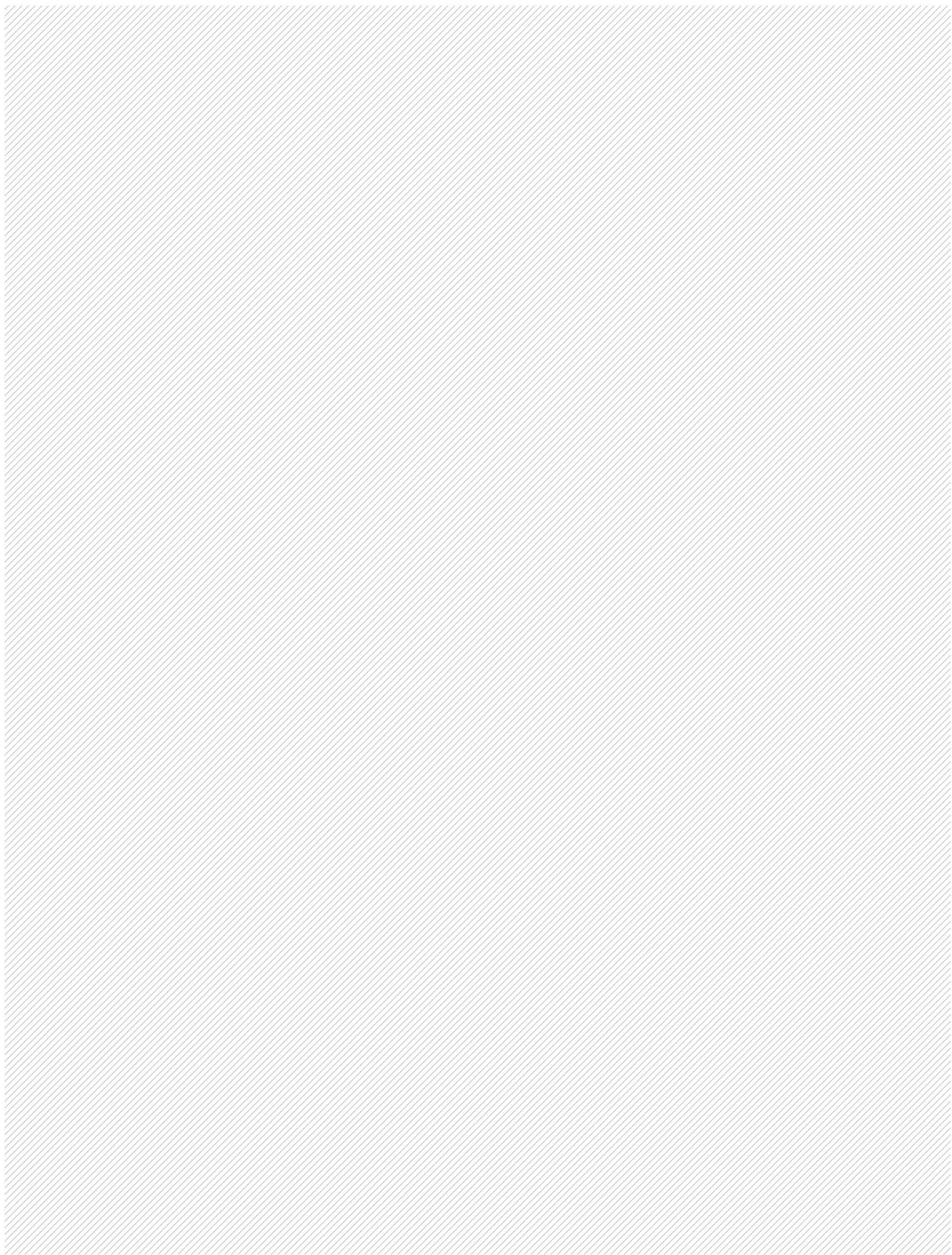
I challenge each of you to overturn last year's AFAF campaign effort, which showed only 24 percent of our men and women in uniform contributing and 36 percent of Air Force bases missing their goals.

The Air Force is a special family with a unique calling whose military members, active-duty and retired, sometimes face seemingly insurmountable challenges. This is our opportunity to be part of the solution.

It's amazing what a lot of people contributing just a little can mean to those in unfortunate circumstances!



DISCOVERY **13**
March 28, 2003





Marsh

Q&A

FULL NAME:
Vida Yvette Kelly Marsh, GS-9
(*Vida means life in Spanish, my mother knew what she was doing when she named me.*)

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Director of marketing and commercial sponsorship, 311th Services Division

WHAT IS MY JOB?
I do a little bit of this and a little bit of that, including publicity, marketing and commercial sponsorship for all Services activities.

BIRTHDAY:
July 9, 1962
Chinese Zodiac: year of the tiger, brave, loyal, sociable, active, enthusiastic, self-confident

HOMETOWN:
Conceived, born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

FAMILY STATUS:
I'm married to Master Sgt. Andre Marsh for 20 years with two daughters Kyomi, 16, and Ashlei-Michele, 12, two dogs and a cat.

MOTTO:
I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me, Phil 4:13

INSPIRATIONS:
Being in the company of good people

HOBBIES:
Cooking, meeting people, sports, including teaching aerobics at Randolph and Brooks Fitness Centers. I'm also a Mary Kay beauty consultant and I enjoy working in various ministries at my church, Resurrection Baptist in Schertz.

PET PEEVE:
Procrastination and consistent negative attitudes

BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:
Bible, fitness magazines and a book on positive thinking

I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE:
Spouse preference is a good program for dependent spouses. After getting married and finishing my undergraduate degree we immediately went overseas. I had to help bring home the bacon.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
to open my own business in the San Antonio area and complete my Master's in Public Administration.

ULTIMATE GOAL:
to work in my own business until the Lord calls me home.

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:
Let's be real about this. Of course I'd pay off some bills, take care of my family and start a non-profit organization for handicapped/special education students so they would be able to attend college.

MY FAVORITE MUSIC:
R & B, Gospel and jazz

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
is making people smile.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
is my two beautiful daughters.

Feature

Brooks Personality PROFILE



Photo by Airman First Class Samantha Shieh

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

During college, Vida Marsh wanted to open a funeral home.

While the news may surprise most people who know the up-tempo, full of life, love the world mother of two, her desire actually fits right in with her Christian spirit.

"I wanted to help people in their grief," Marsh explained. "You're sad, but the Lord takes care of it."

Marsh, who earned a bachelor's degree in marketing, designed a marketing plan for a funeral home with her college roommate.

"We included cremations," Marsh said. "Then, there were no cremations. You had to go 40 miles away. Now, it's everywhere. That tells me my idea was good."

She still thinks she would have opened a funeral parlor had she stayed in Louisiana, but she has no regrets about her decision to marry into the military and travel the world.

"In December of '84 I graduated. I got married the week before and two months later went overseas," Marsh said. "I could have been a buyer for a department store, but that love bug bit me."

Marsh and her husband Master Sgt. Andre Marsh traveled to several places together during his military career including Virginia, two tours in Japan and, of course, San Antonio.

As her locations changed, so did her job field. Marsh started government work in the finance world, thanks to the spouse priority placement program, and in Japan worked in the housing office.

"I loved that job," she said. "It's meeting people and helping people."

Marsh began as the housing management assistant in Kadena then became a housing inspector.

"There's a (person) people love to hate," she said.

Despite her enthusiasm for her past positions, Marsh loves her job in services better than any other. She uses her education in marketing to promote Brooks, while using her magnetic personality to welcome base newcomers and encourage participation in Brooks programs.

"It's important when you find a job that you really enjoy," Marsh said. "I tell the newcomers it's what you make of it."

Marsh implemented ideas like revitalizing the comment cards program and a Christmas clothing drive, while reintroducing events like live music at the Brooks Club.

"If there are certain programs that I try to implement I sometimes get resistance because it's something new and different," she said. "It's the deliverance of the message."

If response is any indication, Marsh gets her professional and personal messages across very well. People pop into Marsh's office for a quick chat or a cheerful hello all day long, hoping to catch her in between her many phone calls. Marsh greets everyone with an easy smile and has no difficulty making conversation.

"She's a sweet person," Chaplain Gary Coburn said. "I enjoy coming by and seeing her big smile."

Marsh doesn't mind the company at all. She encourages people to stop by, not just at her office, but at her home as well. "I love entertaining," Marsh said. "I love cooking. It doesn't bother me because I enjoy doing it so much."

Marsh brightens people's day on

Loving life, embracing death

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil



USAFSAM singer earns yearlong gig with 'Tops In Blue'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Like home runs, belting out songs takes a lot of force, confidence and concentration. Staff Sgt. Eddie Bernal recently hit not only a high note in his budding entertainment career, but launched the musical equivalent of a homer when his Lackland Air Force Band performance earned him the coveted role of a lifetime as one of the newest members of the Air Force's "Tops In Blue."

Bernal, a U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine videographer, competed in the U.S. Air Force Entertainment Services' 50th anniversary Worldwide Talent Contest held at Lackland AFB's Bob Hope Theater Feb. 9-17. He and Tech. Sgt. Roy Roscoe, the latter a paralegal technician, were the only Brooks' active duty members who participated in the competition.

"I competed in the male vocalist category. Over 800 people (had previously) submitted videotapes (of themselves performing) for the contest. Only 74 of these were called to perform live (on stage)," said Bernal.

The USAFSAM soloist performed N'Sync's "This I Promise You" which had won for its composer Richard Marx a Grammy Award in 2001. Male vocalists from six other military bases also competed along



“ I competed in the male vocalist category. Over 800 people submitted videotapes for the contest. Only 74 of these were called to perform live. ”

Staff Sgt. Eddie Bernal
U.S. Air Force School
of Aerospace Medicine

with Bernal in his performance group.

The talent contest's other two shows featured many vocal finalists vying for Tops In Blue's limited number of positions.

"One of the things the judges look at is attitude," Bernal said, referring to a performer's ability to work as a member of a team. Part of the judging process involves training sessions in which former Tops In Blue entertainers, called "priors," rehearse candidates.

Besides attitude, judges examine performers' ability to move on stage.

Bernal admits that he's not a great dancer, but his stage movements apparently were sufficient enough to impress the judges.

With his mother and stepfather, Mary and Balde Segovia, in the audience, Bernal's performance during Show III Feb. 16 was good enough for a spot with "Tops In Blues" that each year selects eight male and 10 female vocalists.

Active duty performers who are chosen for "Tops In Blue" are assigned permissive TDY for a year.

While "Tops In Blue" is headquartered at Lackland, the group spends much on its time on the road touring military bases and civilian venues worldwide.

Besides concerts at stateside military bases, the group's overseas tours this year include Afghanistan, Kuwait and South Korea. Tops in Blue's first free concert performance of the 2003 season was March 27 at the Verizon Amphitheater in Selma, Texas.

The Air Force musical group's USO-type show, which includes instrumentalists, historically features a patriotic musical revue that includes music from the 1940s era up through to today's tunes.

"It's pretty much a full-scale production. Besides rehearsals every day, we also have to do everything else associated with staging a show," Bernal said, referring to team members moving 36,000 pounds of equipment to tour sites.

"We are the roadies," he said, noting that performers have to help out in a myriad of activities ranging from being audio technicians to gaffers (lighting technicians).

For military performers, being selected to Tops In Blue is the equivalent of being hired as a professional entertainer.

"It's my first break in show business. Broadway talent scouts attend Tops In Blue shows," Bernal said, noting that some members have gone on to professional entertainment careers. Even a former Tops in Blues transportation driver, an Air Force enlisted member, was later hired by a NASCAR Winston Cup team.

While Bernal first began thinking about trying out for Tops In Blue four years ago, he has had a life-long interest in pursuing an entertainment career.

Born an only child in Victoria, Texas Sept. 30, 1974, Bernal



Courtesy photos

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Staff Sgt. Eddie Bernal sings out during "Tops in Blue" competition at Lackland Air Force Base recently.

earned musical acclaim as a tenor at Kerrville's Tivy High School. He was selected to the University Interscholastic League All-State Choir as a vocalist in his junior and senior years. After graduating in 1993, Bernal attended Bee County College on a two-year music scholarship as a vocal performance major. However, after his scholarship money had run out, Bernal joined the Air Force in 1997 as a means of furthering his musical education on the G.I. Bill. His musical education has come more

quickly than expected thanks, in part, to Air Force Entertainment director Thomas Edwards, who gave Bernal an opportunity to compete in Tops In Blue. The competition period overlapped Bernal's participation in Airman Leadership School, which he completed days before performing in the talent contest.

"It's a dream come true for me and an honor to serve my country in this capacity," Bernal said.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



During the Tops in Blue competition at Lackland Air Force Base, contestants were judged on attitude and their ability to move on stage as well as talent. Staff Sgt. Eddie Bernal, assigned to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, earned a yearlong position with "Tops in Blue" for his performance.



Let sleep work for you during National Sleep Week

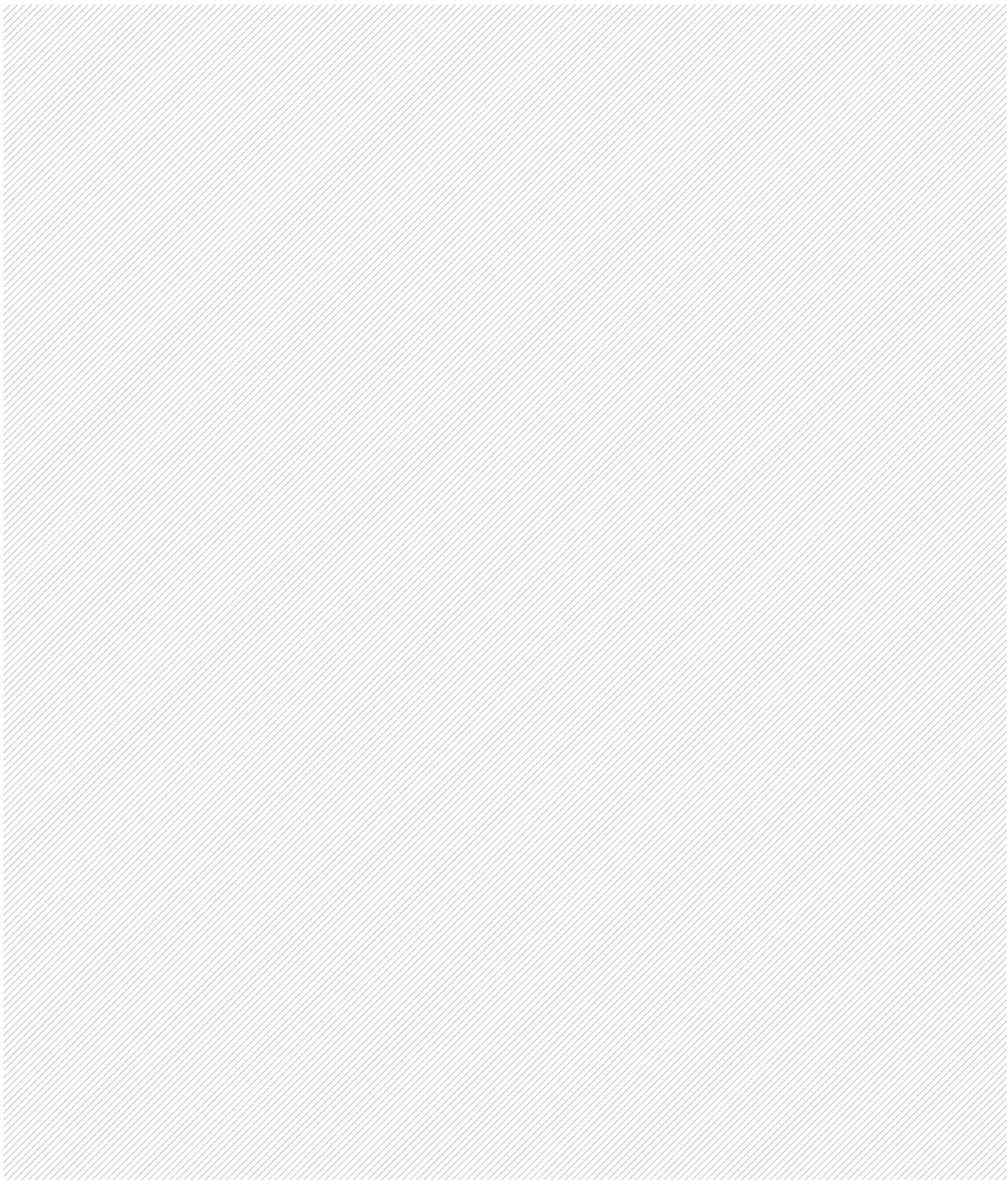
NATIONAL SLEEP FOUNDATION — The week leading up to the return of Daylight Saving Time is National Sleep Awareness Week(r), an important week for us sleep advocates to try to increase our ranks, or at the very least, get members of our communities to learn why their sleep is so vital to their health, safety and well being. According to the National Sleep Foundation, most Americans do not get the seven to nine hours of sleep each night recommended by sleep experts. In fact, according to a recent NSF poll, nearly one-quarter of America's adults don't even get the minimum amount of sleep they say they need to be alert the next day. The result appears to be an epidemic of daytime sleepiness that can impact cognition, performance and state of mind.

As America's sleep debt mounts, our health, safety and productivity decline. That same NSF poll found a clear link between the quantity and quality of respondents' sleep and their overall mood, behavior and performance. More sleep was associated with less daytime sleepiness and more feelings of energy, happiness and optimism. Conversely, less sleep was associated with more daytime sleepiness and respondents who were more likely to describe themselves as stressed, sad and angry. In addition, studies show there are dangerous consequences

to sleep deprivation, from decreased cognitive function to falling asleep at the wheel. Sleep deprivation also has been associated with hormonal and metabolic changes that mimic the effects of aging, as well as an increased risk of developing diabetes.

NSF estimates the cost of sleeplessness to the U.S. economy is at least \$18 billion a year in lost work productivity. That's why the National Sleep Foundation and hundreds of other organizations across the nation promote public awareness during National Sleep Awareness Week 2003, March 31 - April 6. We all need to realize that good sleep is as important as diet and exercise in maintaining our health and safety. Take time to think about your own sleep habits and those of other family members. Pay special attention to teenagers, whose biological clocks are often in conflict with early school start times that can result in teens coming to school too sleepy to learn. Learn what you can do to improve your sleep, how to recognize signs of potentially serious disorders, and where you can go for help. Heed the theme of National Sleep Awareness Week this year, and "Let Sleep Work For You!"

You can contact the National Sleep Foundation at: www.sleepfoundation.org or call 202-347-3471 for information.





Remote returnees get a breather

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON—Airmen returning from overseas remote "short" tours will receive six-month exemptions from deploying with their new units on scheduled air and space expeditionary force deployments.

The policy change is the result of input from airmen in the field, according to Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Peppe, special assistant for AEFs at the Pentagon.

"Gen. (William J.) Begert, Pacific Air Forces commander, talked to an airman in Korea who had permanent change of station orders and already knew that he was in an AEF and would be leaving soon after he arrived at his new base," Peppe said.

The policy goes into effect immediately, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper has directed the change to Air Force instructions to reflect the six-month exemption.

Previously, the policy called for 60-day exemptions with deviations approved at the squadron commander level. Peppe said deviation from the new six-month deferment would have to be made at the major command vice commander level.

"It's pretty obvious why we're doing this," Peppe said. "The AEF concept was (designed) to provide our airmen with some stability in their lives.

"If we roll into this properly, we'll provide not only the airman and his or her family with some stability, but the unit will have an opportunity to bring the individual in and get him or her acclimatized to the new location," he said.

Personnel officials said the policy change would grant temporary deployment relief to as many as 7,000 airmen.

"It's the fair thing to do," Peppe said. "Those people who are serving remote tours are providing forward presence at its finest. People can always volunteer if they see their units deploying. We want to make sure we're fair and equitable across the board."



Midweek mass

Midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. Mass is held each First Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community.

Lifebuilder's series

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Contact the Chapel staff for more information.

Chapel schedule

Weekdays:

11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

Wednesdays:

12 p.m. — Lifebuilders luncheon

6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Thursdays:

7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass

10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education

9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School, ages 3-adult

10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children's church



NEWS briefs

Promotion ceremony

The next Brooks enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for March 31, at 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club, Bldg. 204. The ceremony recognizes March and April promotees for their promotion to the next higher grade. Come out and support the newest promotees.

Sleep study subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers to participate in a number of ongoing sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Laura Sanchez at 536-3616 for additional information, or visit the website at: www.ntiinc.com and link to "studies."

Red Cross volunteers

The American Red Cross is seeking volunteers to assist with the needs of the local military community during the war. Individuals with regular weekday, evening or weekend availability are particularly needed, but all volunteers are welcome.

The local Red Cross chapter and its

military installation offices have intensified their support to local military families with increased emergency communications, assistance to deploying service members and families, and briefings for thousands of local reservists called to active duty since the first of the year.

The Red Cross has extended its hours of operation and staffed additional offices on local military installations, which requires the help of dedicated volunteers.

Volunteers are trained to take incoming calls, complete emergency communication casework, assist with briefings and provide for a host of needs and requests from service members and their families.

Retirees, spouses, groups and young people are encouraged to find out how they can do more to help military families during this time of need.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer call the local Red Cross office at 224-5151 ext. 248.

Altitude test subjects

Altitude test subjects needed: Help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude recon-

nnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures to accomplish their missions without distraction or hazard resulting from exposure to altitude. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Each subject must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for more information.

Centrifuge subjects

The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division is in need of active duty volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 years, able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam, to participate in several studies, which help in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for Air Force aircrew in wartime and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn

\$150 hazardous duty pay per month.

For more information, contact Suzanne Flores at 536-6258.

Periodontic patients

The Wilford Hall Medical Center Department of Periodontics at Lackland Air Force Base is seeking patients with specific needs for treatment in the Periodontics Residency Program. Applicants must be a military retiree, family member of a retiree, or family member of active duty and have been recently determined by a dentist to have an existing periodontal condition. Eligible patients must obtain a written consult from their referring dentist. This consult may be faxed to "Attention, Periodontics" at 292-5193, or you may bring it to MacKown Dental Clinic on Lackland AFB between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. to be scheduled for a periodontal evaluation appointment. Patients will be selected for treatment based on the needs of the periodontal training program. The Department of Periodontics provides treatment of the gums and bone support of teeth; we are unable to schedule appointments for fillings, braces, crowns, or bridgework. For more information, call 292-7273.

BROOKS
SPOTLIGHT
Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

dren. During this event parents, caregivers and administrative staff will provide a variety of activities for both the young and young at heart. Our theme for this year's event is Red, White and Blue so come dressed appropriately. Food, games, and most of all, fun will be on the agenda. This includes bingo, a fish pond, bubble table, moonwalk, face painting, a cakewalk, clown, insect display and door prizes. Call the center for more details.

Family Child Care

Bldg. 510, 536-2041

The Family Child Care Program has seven affiliated licensed providers with vacancies for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. A list of providers is available at the office, the Child Development Center, in Bldg. 502, or the Youth Center, Bldg. 470. Assistance is available at the Family Child Care Office Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Movie Nights are back at the Brooks Club. First-run movies are shown Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. Call the staff or stop by for more details. See you at the movies.

Grab 'n Go Chicken is back by popular demand starting in April. Make dinner easy by calling the Brooks Club and ordering: 2 pieces for \$2.95; 4 pieces for \$4.75; 6 pieces for \$6.25; 8 pieces for \$8.25; 10 pieces for \$10.25 or 16 pieces for \$14.75. The meal comes with all the trimmings. Place your order and pick up dinner 45 minutes later. It's that easy.

Base Library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634

National Library Week is April 6-12. The first National Library Week took place in 1958 to acknowledge our libraries and librarians and the contributions they make. It is also a time to promote library use. Help the Base Library staff celebrate by attending the Open House April 10 from noon to 2

p.m.

Children, ages 5 through 10 years, are invited to attend one of our Story Times during this special week. They are scheduled for April 6 at 2:30 p.m. and April 8, at 4:30 p.m.

If you do not have a library card this is the perfect time to get one. You will not only have access to our library books but others from many libraries throughout this great land of ours.

Youth Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

Hippity Hop...the Easter Bunny is on its way to Brooks. He will arrive at the Youth Center April 19 just in time for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children should be in place ready to hunt eggs a few minutes prior to 2 p.m. The hunt will start at exactly 2:00 pm so we don't want children to miss out on any of the excitement. Each child must bring its own basket. There will be "special" eggs in each age category. If you find an egg with a number inside please take the egg to a member of the Youth Center staff and receive a prize. There will be four designated areas adjacent to the center for the following age groups: 1-3; 4-5; 6-8 and 9-12 years.

Have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny for only \$2.50 each.

Be sure to pick up your coloring sheet from the center staff. Color the page and enter it in the Easter Coloring Contest.

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

No place to put those extra items around the home or office? Rent an indoor storage unit and clear up the clutter. 48 units are conveniently located on the flight line across from

Outdoor Recreation. A 6' x 12' unit rents for \$35.00 per month and a 12' x 12' unit rents for \$60.00 per month. Call for more information!

FamFest 2003

The first ever City-Base Picnic is scheduled for June 20 at the base picnic grounds. Although this is the 32nd

year for the base picnic it's the first for City-Base. There is still time for organizations to sign-up for a food or beverage booth. Crafters are also wanted for a Crafter's Haven at the event this year. Rent a 6' x 8' space and display your hand crafted items.

Contact Vida Marsh at 536-8057 for more information on this year's event.

Let's Play Ball

Brooks personnel are invited to see the San Antonio Missions play the Midland Rockhounds April 9 at 7:05 p.m. Military Appreciation Night, is sponsored by General Mills. Contact your first sergeant for free tickets.

Club scholarships

Air Force Services is conducting the 7th Annual Club Membership Scholarship Program. Club members and their eligible family members are encouraged to take advantage of this special scholarship opportunity. Club membership pays.

Current club members and their family members, including spouses, children and step-children, are eligible to apply for scholarships via this program. Applicant must be accepted by or enrolled in an accredited college or university for the fall of 2003. Student enrollment status may involve either undergraduate or graduate curricula. Entrants must provide an essay of 500 words or less, on "Air Force Clubs-Help Us Make 'Members First.'

Each entry must be submitted to the member's base Services commander/division chief by July 15. Essays become property of the Air Force Services Agency and may be used in marketing and/or publicizing the Club Membership Scholarship Program and/or club membership. Six scholarships will be awarded. 1st Prize: \$6,000; 2nd Prize: \$5,500; 3rd Prize: \$4,500; 4th Prize: \$3,500; 5th Prize: \$3,000 and 6th Prize: \$2,500.

Services employees and family members are not eligible to participate. Contact Services for more information.



Sports

Varsity women's hoop builds on lessons learned

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

They learned to play the game the way what all basketball coaches strive to achieve when building a new program by collectively demonstrating a steadfast commitment to fundamentals. Combining the fundamentally sound skills taught by their first-year coach Robert Garcia, the Brooks women's varsity team learned some valuable lessons on the hardcourt during the 2002-2003 season that hopefully will lead to future success in the coming years.

"They all gave the game a good effort. We had no expectations because we hadn't had a women's (varsity) team (here) for years," said Garcia about the squad that was formed last fall.

The team was built by the recruiting efforts of fitness center specialist Hosea Talbert and Garcia. Talbert selected Garcia to coach the team based on the star basketball player's commitment to the game.

"It's definitely in my blood," admits Garcia, referring to his first foray into coaching adults at the varsity level. The team responded well to Garcia's nurturing and compassionate coach-



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Team cohesiveness was demonstrated throughout the season in games and practices by the Brooks women's varsity basketball team.

ing style that is spiced by an all-encompassing winning spirit. "I hate to lose. I am very competitive," Garcia confessed.

"We played Lackland Air Force Base quite a few times and a really good junior varsity team from Trinity University. We didn't win any games. As the season progressed, (however), we became even more competitive," Garcia said, adding, "The team started to gel early on. We just continued to improve." He attributed the team's steady improvement to their collective work ethic and desire and determination to get better. Besides rigorous practices

in which the squad learned a swing offense, the Brooks lady cagers learned valuable lessons during a Fort Sam Houston tournament in February. They compensated for their lack of height and playing experience by demonstrating a confident, aggressive style of play against more seasoned teams that included Tinker AFB.

"We competed really well. It (tourney) showed our marked improvement. Tinker only beat us by six points," Garcia noted about the game against an Air Force Materiel Command tournament champion.

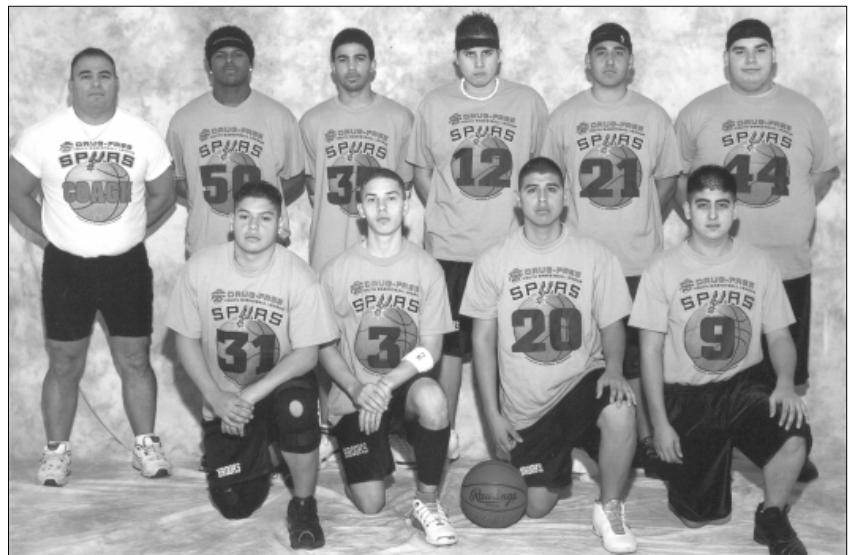
Among the team's sparkplugs were

guard-forward Jen Smith and guard Carmen Celaya. Referring to Smith, Garcia said, "She was terrific as a our best player." Smith, an Air Force Research Laboratory second lieutenant, had briefly played basketball at West Point. "She has good outside shooting skills and handled the ball very well. Toward the end of the season she started to rebound with a vengeance." Smith's improved 'on the boards' performance complemented the efforts of the team's two rebounding stars, forward-center Candice Tolentino and point guard Angela Ruiz. Celaya, a civilian, gave the team a late-season lift with her competitiveness, Garcia said. Unfortunately, the varsity squad did not have enough eligible players to compete at the AFMC tournament.

"A large portion of our team was composed of civilians," Garcia said, noting that while it hurt Brooks post-season tournament eligibility, the civilian-military player mix allowed the base to field a team for the regular season. The squad also featured Christina Shroeder, Veronica Berry Jones, Davida Hodge, Brook Wook, Nya Wilson and Cheryl Forte.

"I consider every one of the players a friend," Garcia said, who admits he'll miss coaching them next season. He separates from the Air Force in May. Nevertheless, Garcia believes he and the team he enjoyed coaching have built the foundation for the future success of the Brooks women's varsity basketball program.

Brooks Eagles win first hoop tournament



Courtesy photo

The challenge division tournament champion Brooks purple squad, (left to right): front row, Tony Urren, Jeremy Smith, Joshua Guerrero, Chris Garcia; back row, Coach Ray Lopez, Desmond Peters, T.J. Neal, Aaren Ramon, Ray Mednoza and Adrian Flores.

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks youth basketball elevated its reputation as a successful, competitive program March 8 when two base teams battled for The Challenge Division championship in which the Purple squad outlasted the White squad 71-68 to win the single elimination tournament held at Boysville.

"It's the first time a Brooks youth basketball team has won a tournament," said Brooks youth sports director Larry Flores. The tournament was held after the conclusion of a nine-game regular season that is part of the San Antonio Spurs Youth Basketball League. Brooks has been competing in the league and post-season tournament for the past four or five years, explained Flores.

Competing in the league and the post-season tournament

were two Brooks squads composed of 15-17-year-old civilian youth and military dependents. The Purple and White Brooks teams were coached by Ray Lopez and Gene Garcia, respectively. No one predicted that the two Brooks team would face each other in the championship game.

"The Purple squad had two regular season losses. The White squad was the favored team with only one season loss," Flores said. Teams from Boysville, Fort Sam Houston and Randolph Air Force Base also competed in the tournament.

Key Brooks performers were the Purple squad's point guard T.J. Neal and forward Aaren Ramon and the White Squad's forward-center Carmelo Serna and center Steve Garcia. Both squads later participated for the first time in a military tournament held outside of San Antonio March 22 at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas.